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LETTER DATED 14 JULY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In my capacity as Chairman of the Group of Arab States for July 1995, I have the honour to transmit herewith the declaration issued by the Group of Arab States at its meeting of 14 July 1995 on the tragic events which have taken place in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the attention of the members of the Security Council, and if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Iraq
to the United Nations
Chairman of the Group of Arab States

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ANNEX

Declaration issued at the meeting of the Group of Arab States held on Friday, 14 July 1995

The Group of Arab States held an emergency meeting in the morning of Friday, 14 July 1995, to consider the tragic events which have taken place in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the continuing deterioration in the situation, especially in the safe area of Srebrenica and its environs, as a result of the most recent aggression by the Bosnian Serb forces.

At the meeting the Group of Arab States expressed its extreme concern at the occupation by the Bosnian Serbs of the area of Srebrenica and its environs. It called upon the Security Council and the international community to assume their responsibilities by taking the urgent and drastic measures needed to stop the aggression, bring about an immediate withdrawal of the Bosnian Serb aggressor forces from the safe area of Srebrenica, and impose respect for the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, and further called upon them to hold firm in the face of any further aggression against other safe areas.

The Arab Group also expressed its support for the demands made by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular, that it be allowed to exercise its right to self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations through the lifting by the Security Council of the embargo on the import of weapons. Pending a unilateral lifting of the embargo on the import of weapons by the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the territorial integrity and political independence of this Republic must be respected, and a distinction must be drawn in this matter between aggressor and victim. Further, all necessary humanitarian aid must be provided to the refugees and displaced persons and every effort must be made to bring about their immediate return to their homes and to put an end to the crimes committed by the aggressor forces, in particular extermination and ethnic cleansing, with guarantees of respect for the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

The Arab Group also wishes to express its support for the declaration by the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group, issued as a Security Council document (S/1995/563).